

## REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 24, 2008, has been received and its contents carefully noted. The pending claims, claims 1, 3-9, 11, 14-19, 21, 22, 24 and 25, were rejected. By this Response, claims 1 and 11 have been amended and claims 6 and 17 have been canceled. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. See, for example, Figures 1-2, page 13, lines 18-27, page 14, lines 13-17, and page 17, lines 14-20 of the Specification. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

### *Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)*

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17, 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dible (US 6,411,490) in view of Nakano (US 20030056901). The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 25 as being unpatentable over Dible and Nakano in view of Zhao (US 5,643,364). The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 7, 14-16, 18, 19 and 22 as being unpatentable over Dible in view of Nakano and further in view of Reyzelman (US 6,703,080). Amended claims 1 and 11 specify features which traverse each of these three rejections.

Amended claims 1 and 11 now also focus on the particular connection arrangements between elements within Applicants' "high-frequency electric power supplying part", and between such "part" and Applicants' "first electrode". With respect to the reference numbers in Applicants' exemplary, preferred embodiments, the following connection details now are specified:

- (1) The transmission line between HF-Source unit (86) and first matching unit (80) is a coaxial tube (88), not a cable.
- (2) The first matching unit (80) and the first electrode (12) are connected (only) by a power supply rod (34).
- (3) A second coaxial tube (102), again not a cable, connects the second matching unit (84) and the first electrode (12).

None of the applied art teaches or suggests Applicants' arrangement as now claimed. Dible does not teach or suggest connective features (1) to (3) above. Nakano, Zhao and

Reyzelman do not alleviate the deficiencies of Dible. Since the applied documents do not teach or suggest that Applicants' recited (1) coaxial tube transmission line, (2) exclusive power supply rod connection between the first matching unit and the first electrode, and (3) coaxial tube connection between the second matching unit and the first electrode, the claimed invention is novel and unobvious.

Because of the combination of the above features (1) to (3), the structure in Applicants' "space", defined by the tubular supporting part and the bottom surface of the first electrode, has a very simple construction. The simplicity in the architecture of the defined space is an unexpected and remarkable effect resulting from Applicants' recited connective structure. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have expected that such architecture could have been derived from the disclosures of Dible and Nakano, alone or in combination with Zhao and/or Reyzelman. In particular, Applicants' construction with coaxial tubes instead of cables made cable connector elements unnecessary. This unexpectedly simplified the system and apparatus according to the instant application.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims, as amended, are unobvious and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should properly be withdrawn.

#### **Request for Interview**

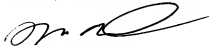
Applicants respectfully request either a telephonic or an in-person interview should there be any remaining issues.

### CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Attorney Docket No. 033082 M 194.**

Respectfully submitted,  
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